Dear Members of Congress:

Last week we sent you a letter outlining our principles which will be used as a guide to evaluate any COVID-19 relief legislation. We are following up on that letter in light of the Senate bill that passed yesterday and which the House is expected to vote on in the next few days.

We strongly oppose H.R. 266 the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act. This legislative package continues to leave significant sectors of our economy out and does not provide targeted help to communities of color.

Businesses owned by people of color have been the hardest hit by COVID-19. These businesses have less access to credit and less ability to withstand the loss of income. They are not only providers of critical services in underserved communities; they also serve as primary sources of jobs.

Moreover, we have pointed out the disproportionate harm our communities are experiencing due in part by the lack of free testing and treatment.

H.R. 266 fails to acknowledge and address these concerns. Instead, it provides additional funding to large banks that prioritized wealthier businesses over small businesses. And while there are some funds for community banks, these have had less success in serving borrowers of color. H.R. 266 also fails to provide separately funding for Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) and Minority Depository Institutions (MDIs) in spite of the fact that these institutions have the strongest track record of serving borrowers of color.

Equally troubling, the bill does not require data on borrower demographics and loan amounts to be collected or reported which are needed to ensure equity, transparency, and accountability. Further, the bill should include a clause to prohibit discrimination in its implementation of the program.

On the testing and treatment front, currently, the United States leads with the most number of confirmed cases in the world, yet the $25 billion for COVID-19 tests in H.R. 266 continues to exclude undocumented immigrants. This on the heels of the CARE Act which also failed to provide vital health care and financial assistance to immigrants.

We refer you again to our last letter:

- In 2017 undocumented immigrants paid $27.2 billion in taxes;
- In 2016 according to the New American Economy, they contributed $13 billion into the Social Security funds and $3 billion to Medicare.
- Almost 60 percent have lived in the US for 10 years or longer and nationwide
League of United Latin American Citizens

- And more than 8 million U.S. citizens have at least one unauthorized family member living with them.
- Latinos make up 1.9 million farmworkers and 35 percent of meat and poultry packers, and 23 percent of grocery workers who are working in small and big chains and exposing themselves to COVID-19.
- More than 200,000 DACA recipients are classified by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security as “essential critical infrastructure workers”
- Latinos are also disproportionately feeling the impacts: 34 percent of those who have passed away in NYC—ground zero of the pandemic—are Latinos even though they make up only 29 percent of the population.
- 83.8 percent of Latino workers are unable to work from home.
- Front-facing customer services industries, “essential” industries, such as food production, construction, custodial service, and leisure sectors are heavily dominated by Latinos.
- The current economic crisis will further hurt Latinas since they are overrepresented in low wage work.

We have asked before that you use every tool at your disposal to ensure that we are leveraging every asset in the federal government to provide for the health and safety of our communities. And we mean, in particular, the most vulnerable which need the most help.

Thus we ask you to vote **NO on H.R. 266** and instead focus on legislation that will directly address the needs of those most affected by this pandemic.

In Solidarity,

Domingo Garcia                                                        Sindy M. Benavides  
LULAC National President                                               LULAC Chief Executive Officer